



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

January 2006

Dear Eighth Congressional District Artist:

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 25th Annual Congressional Art Competition.

From April 1-28, 2006, I will be sponsoring this annual art competition and exhibition for high school students from Maryland's Eighth Congressional District at Strathmore Arts Center, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, Maryland. The winning entry from each congressional district across the country will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol. In addition, the runners-up in my competition will have their work displayed in my congressional offices.

I hope that you will participate. All students living or attending school in the Eighth Congressional District are eligible to submit entries.

To participate, you must complete the enclosed "Participating Student Information/Release Form." This form needs to be completed and signed by you, then signed by a faculty member and a parent/guardian, and faxed to my Rockville district office at 301-424-5992 by March 15, 2006. The original/signed form must be attached to the back of the artwork. **The form MUST be faxed by March 15th for the artwork to be included in the competition.**

The guidelines for suitability and framing are enclosed. Please read the material carefully, as both Strathmore and the U.S. Capitol have specific requirements for hanging artwork. Information and forms are available on my website at **www.house.gov/vanhollen**.

Artwork may be delivered to Strathmore at the following times:

Thursday, March 23: 3:00–6:30 p.m. (downstairs through the handicapped entrance)

Saturday, March 25: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (through the main entrance)

I will be hosting an Awards Ceremony and Reception to honor all participants at Strathmore on **Monday, April 3, 2006 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** I hope that you and your family, teachers, principal and friends will attend to view this unique showcase of the talents of the Eighth District's young artists. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact my Congressional Art Competition Coordinator, Linda Pepper, at (301) 657-8650 or at pepper461@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "H".

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress